

The NGA Center for Best Practices is pleased to announce the release of a new issue brief, "HIPAA & the States: Critical Issues and Compliance Strategies." The brief highlights the key challenges facing states as they implement the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). It also outlines various strategies states are pursuing to manage HIPAA's impact, such as:

- coordinating compliance activities among the affected agencies;
- collaborating with the private sector; and
- developing and sharing innovative compliance tools.

HIPAA requires states to ensure that individually identifiable health care information remains confidential and secure. It also requires states to standardize the way certain administrative and financial health care information is exchanged electronically. Identifying the agencies and programs that will be affected will require a comprehensive assessment of how health information is collected, stored, used, and shared throughout state government.

The brief is now available for download on the NGA Center's website at http://www.nga.org/center/divisions/1,1188,C_ISSUE_BRIEF^D_2717,00.html.

Robert J. Burns
Policy Analyst, Health Policy Studies Division
National Governors Association
Center for Best Practices
444 North Capitol Street, Suite 267
Washington, DC 20001-1512
(202) 624-7729
fax: (202) 624-5313
email: rburns@nga.org
www.nga.org/center